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10/661,504

09/15/2003

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02/21/2007

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EXAMINER

CHEN, QING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2191

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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3 MONTHS

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/661,504

Applicant(s)

SUGIYAMA, TAKAAKI

Examiner

Qing Chen

Art Unit

2191

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed on December 22, 2006.
2. **Claims 1-10** are pending.
3. **Claims 1, 7, and 8** have been amended.
4. The objection to the drawings due to informalities is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the drawings. However, the objection to the drawings regarding compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121(d) is maintained, since the Office has not received replacement drawing sheets labeled "Replacement Sheet."
5. The objection to the abstract is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the abstract.
6. The objections to the specification are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the specification.
7. The objection to Claim 8 is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the claims.

Response to Amendment

Drawings

8. The drawings were received on January 30, 2004. These drawings are not acceptable because the drawings are not in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121(d). Any changes to an application drawing must be in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.84 and must be submitted on a replacement sheet of drawings, which shall be an attachment to the amendment document and, in the top margin, labeled "Replacement Sheet."

Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the Examiner, the Applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. **Claims 1-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Cheyer et al.** (US 6,851,115) in view of **Tadokoro et al.** (US 2002/0052796).

As per **Claim 1**, Cheyet et al. disclose:

- a service acquisition unit that acquires plural services available to a user by using user information (*see Figure 4: 402; Figure 6: 448; Column 6: 10-13, "The facilitator agent interprets these requests ..."; Column 7: 58-63, "A user interface ... is responsible for accepting user input, sending requests to the facilitator ..."*); and

- a cooperation instruction information creation unit that creates the cooperation instruction information by using the plural services acquired by the service acquisition unit (*see Figure 4: 402 and 418; Figure 11; Column 7: 24-29, "... when a facilitator determines that the registered services of one of its client agents will help satisfy a goal, the facilitator sends that client a request expressed in the Interagent Communication Language (ICL)."*).

However, Cheyet et al. do not disclose:

- wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed.

Tadokoro et al. disclose:

- wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed (*see Figures 8 and 22; Paragraph [0068], "The common information of state 134 is a table for storing information related to the services (including not only common services, but also services classified by area and by cooperated company) used by all the users. The common information of state 134 includes fields of user code 801, service code 802, cooperated company user code 803, state code 804, and service providing time 805."; Paragraph [0069], "The state code 804 stores the various states that occur when the user uses a service. For example, the state code 804 stores*

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such states as login and logout, or start and end.”; Paragraph [0101], “Where the state code is changed (that is, new row data is added to the common information of state 134), the system reads the user information 131 in step Sd30, then obtains an area code 503 corresponding to the user code 801 of the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 in step Sd40. Then, the system adds the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 as described above to the information of state classified by area 135 together with the area code obtained in the previous step in the next step Sd50.”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tadokoro et al. into the teaching of Cheyer et al. to include wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to monitor the state of the user for market research (*see Tadokoro et al. – Paragraph [0004]*).

As per **Claim 2**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- a retrieval unit that retrieves a service, wherein the service acquisition unit transmits user information and makes a retrieval request for a service available to the user to the retrieval unit, and acquires plural services available to the user in response to the retrieval request (*see Figure 4: 404; Column 7: 24-38, “... the facilitator sends that client a request ... The agent parses this request, processes it, and returns answers or status reports to the facilitator. In*

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processing a request, the client agent can make use of a variety of infrastructure capabilities provided ...").

As per **Claim 3**, the rejection of **Claim 2** is incorporated; however, Cheyet et al. do not disclose:

- wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services available to the user.

Tadokoro et al. disclose:

- wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services available to the user (*see Figure 5; Paragraph [0061], "The user information 131 is a table for storing various information items of a user who can receive services provided by the service providing system 101. The user information table 131 includes fields of user code 501, password 502, area code 503, account holder code 504, and account holder name 505."; Paragraph [0076], "The service access program 321 then sends the user code and the password entered by the user to the management of common service 121(Sa30 in FIG. 18). Checking the user code and the password, the management of common service 121 displays the screen svc01 for starting the common service (Sa40 in FIG. 18)."*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tadokoro et al. into the teaching of Cheyet et al. to include wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services available to the user. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing information on a network.

As per **Claim 4**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; however, Cheyet et al. do not disclose:

- an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit.

Tadokoro et al. disclose:

- an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit (*see Figure 4: 121; Paragraph [0076], "The service access program 321 then sends the user code and the password entered by the user to the management*

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of common service 121 (Sa30 in FIG. 18). Checking the user code and the password, the management of common service 121 displays the screen svc01 for starting the common service (Sa40 in FIG. 18).").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tadokoro et al. into the teaching of Cheyet et al. to include an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing information on a network.

As per **Claim 5**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and Cheyet et al. further disclose:

- wherein the service acquisition unit acquires a service available to the user for each of functions constituting a job flow (*see Column 14: 43-48, "... a client agent (or a user) to submit compound goals of an arbitrarily complex nature to a facilitator. A compound goal is a single goal expression that specifies multiple sub-goals to be performed."*).

As per **Claim 6**, the rejection of **Claim 5** is incorporated; and Cheyet et al. further disclose:

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- wherein the service acquisition unit acquires a service having minimum restrictions for each of the functions constituting the job flow, and the cooperation instruction information creation unit creates the cooperation instruction information by associating the respective services acquired by the service acquisition unit with the respective functions constituting the job flow (*see Column 15: 49-58, "... parameters associated with a goal (or sub-goal) can draw on useful features to refine the request's meaning. For example, it is frequently preferred to be able to specify whether or not solutions are to be returned synchronously ... As another example, when the goal is a non-compound query of a data solvable, the cache parameter may preferably be used to request local caching of the facts associated with that solvable."*; Column 16: 39-43, *"... when a facilitator receives a compound goal, its job is to construct a goal satisfaction plan and oversee its satisfaction in an optimal or near optimal manner that is consistent with the specified advice."*).

As per **Claim 7**, Cheyet et al. disclose:

- creating cooperation instruction information by using the acquired plural services (*see Figure 4: 402 and 418; Figure 11; Column 7: 24-29, "... when a facilitator determines that the registered services of one of its client agents will help satisfy a goal, the facilitator sends that client a request expressed in the Interagent Communication Language (ICL)."*).

However, Cheyet et al. do not disclose:

- acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective services,

wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed.

Tadokoro et al. disclose:

- acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective services, wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed (*see Figures 5, 8, and 22; Paragraph [0061], "The user information 131 is a table for storing various information items of a user who can receive services provided by the service providing system 101. The user information table 131 includes fields of user code 501, password 502, area code 503, account holder code 504, and account holder name 505."; Paragraph [0068], "The common information of state 134 is a table for storing information related to the services (including not only common services, but also services classified by area and by cooperated company) used by all the users. The common information of state 134 includes fields of user code 801, service code 802, cooperated company user code 803, state code 804, and service providing time 805."; Paragraph [0069], "The state code 804 stores the various states that occur when the user uses a service. For example, the state code 804 stores such states as login and logout, or start and end."; Paragraph [0076], "The service access program 321 then sends the user code and the password entered by the user to the management of common service 121 (Sa30 in FIG. 18). Checking the user code and the password, the management of common service 121 displays the screen svc01 for starting the common service (Sa40 in FIG. 18)."; Paragraph [0101], "Where the state code is changed (that is, new row data is added to the common information of state 134), the system reads the user*

information 131 in step Sd30, then obtains an area code 503 corresponding to the user code 801 of the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 in step Sd40. Then, the system adds the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 as described above to the information of state classified by area 135 together with the area code obtained in the previous step in the next step Sd50. ").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tadokoro et al. into the teaching of Cheyet et al. to include acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective services, wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing information on a network and to monitor the state of the user for market research (*see Tadokoro et al. – Paragraph [0004]*).

As per **Claim 8**, the rejection of **Claim 7** is incorporated; and Cheyet et al. further disclose:

- wherein in the cooperation instruction information creation step, services constituting a job flow are selected from the acquired plural services, and the cooperation instruction information is created by using the selected services (*see Column 16: 39-43, "... when a facilitator receives a compound goal, its job is to construct a goal satisfaction plan and oversee*

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its satisfaction in an optimal or near optimal manner that is consistent with the specified advice.").

As per **Claim 9**, the rejection of **Claim 7** is incorporated; and Cheyet et al. further disclose:

- wherein in the service acquisition step, the service available to the user is acquired for each of functions constituting a job flow (*see Column 14: 43-48, "... a client agent (or a user) to submit compound goals of an arbitrarily complex nature to a facilitator. A compound goal is a single goal expression that specifies multiple sub-goals to be performed."*).

As per **Claim 10**, the rejection of **Claim 9** is incorporated; and Cheyet et al. further disclose:

- wherein in the service acquisition step, a service having minimum restrictions is acquired for each of the functions constituting the job flow (*see Column 15: 49-58, "... parameters associated with a goal (or sub-goal) can draw on useful features to refine the request's meaning. For example, it is frequently preferred to be able to specify whether or not solutions are to be returned synchronously ... As another example, when the goal is a non-compound query of a data solvable, the cache parameter may preferably be used to request local caching of the facts associated with that solvable."*).

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1 and 7 have been considered, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

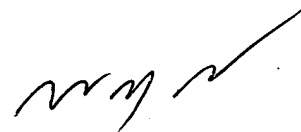
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Qing Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-1071. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen, can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



WEI ZHEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

QC / QC
February 7, 2007